

**The Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on
Thursday 11th September 2025 at 7.00pm**

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Councillors – Deana Carpenter (Vice-chair/DC), Sue Tulloch (ST), Jonathan Rabbits (JR).
Liz James (Clerk), Cllr Clive Hooker, Pat Glover, Henry Wilson

Apologies: Stephen Reschwamm (SR/Chair), Annabelle Eyre (AE), Liam Robson (LR)
2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Bi-monthly Meeting held on Thursday 10th July 2025 were unanimously confirmed and adopted.
4. **Questions/comments from members of the public:**
Pat Glover (PG) of East Garston Eco Group (EGEG) reported on the West Berkshire Town and Parish Climate Forums on 30th July and 10th September. Government-supported schemes for home insulation, and cycle paths were discussed, amongst other topics.

West Berkshire Countryside Society have agreed to do another day of work on the trees to the side of the Millennium Field. PG will liaise with JR to agree what work should be done. Asgar Trees have kindly donated approx. 50 saplings to replace those that haven't survived. North Wessex Downs National Landscape have donated some bulbs. EGEG will plant these and mulch the saplings.

Henry Wilson (HW) reported on the new website and showed those present a video run-through. This will be forwarded to the PC for comment. A decision is needed on how planning applications/decisions are reported on the website.

Action: Clerk to liaise with HW re. planning/website

5. Planning Information since the last meeting:

NEW:	
25/01894/TPC	Corn Baggers, Back Street, East Garston Notification of tree works in conservation area The Parish Council has no objections to this work.
25/01854/HOUSE	East Garston House, Front Street, RG17 7EU External alterations to existing house; including 2 no. dormer windows, 1 no. rooflight and new portico. Formation of outdoor swimming pool. The Parish Council will conduct a site visit prior to commenting on these plans.
25/01972/HOUSE	The Old Vicarage, School Lane, RG17 7HR Replacement of beech hedge with stone garden wall and trained fruit trees The Parish Council has no objections
PENDING:	
DECISIONS:	
24/01651/FUL	2 Burfords, East Garston RG17 7HL Replacement dwelling. PERMISSION GRANTED with conditions
25/01097/HOUSE	6 Burfords, East Garston, Hungerford, RG17 7HL Rendering of existing brick elevation and erection of shed/garden room located to the side of the property. PERMISSION GRANTED with conditions

Signed:



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25/01054/HOUSE	Muchmore, Front Street, East Garston, RG17 7EU Addition of a new dormer and window alterations. PERMISSION GRANTED with conditions
25/01152/FULMAJ	Manor Farm, Station Road, East Garston, RG17 7HF Part retrospective: Use of buildings A and B for ancillary residential use, ancillary to Manor Farm House. PERMISSION GRANTED with conditions

*Notification of applications for East Garston House, and The Old Vicarage, were received after publication of the agenda for this meeting. Consultation notices will be displayed on the website and notice board.

Action: ST to arrange site visit for East Garston House.

6. Receive reports:

District Cllr Clive Hooker updated the council on various issues. Cllr Hooker's most recent report can be found here: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/downloadsparishcouncilreport>

Vice-Chairman's Report: A complaint has been received regarding dog mess in the village, particularly along the footpath beside Dingle Dock. Budget is very tight for this year which prevents additional signage.

Action: Clerk to ask for an announcement in EGN highlighting the availability of dog poo bags in the centre of the village

DC raised the incidents of vandalism in Jubilee Meadow. A quotation of £60+VAT has been received for repairing the broken fence post.

Action: DC to arrange for repairs to go ahead

Action: Clerk to investigate whether the Open Space Dev. Fund can be used for maintenance of open spaces

Action: Clerk to arrange replacement sign for the play equipment

Clerk's Report:

- a) Clerk reported that a VAT rebate of £2,485.12 has been received from HMRC, covering period April-August.
- b) Clerk updated council on costs of services supplied by X-net, which have increased slightly following the activation of the gov.uk email address. Anticipated that services will be approximately £50 more than budgeted.
- c) Speedwatch site at the entrance to Millenium Field has been approved for traffic travelling SE along Newbury Road. Additional site outside Queen's Arms has not been approved.

Action: Clerk to apply for monitoring site at bottom of track to allotments, and for the entrance to Hilltop House.

- d) Clerk has been unable to confirm a date for service of Junior play equipment in Jubilee Meadow.
- e) Notification has been received of increase to Data Protection Fee due for renewal in October. £52 rather than £30 that was budgeted.
- f) WBC Highways department have confirmed that resurfacing work for the section of Newbury Road past Hillside is scheduled for 2026.

7. Finance and Compliance:

- a) Payments & receipts
Payments since the previous meeting:

Name	Goods/Service	Amount incl VAT	Approved
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Signed:



Date:

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X-Net	Domain hosting – admin error	125.00	SR/DC
Unity Bank	Service Charge	6.00	
Tactical Facilities	Dog waste – July	88.40	SR/DC
Autela Payroll	Payroll charges – Apr-Jul	84.00	SR/DC
E James	Salary – July		SR/DC
Caloo Ltd	Toddler playground equipment	12,000.00	SR/DC
Tactical Facilities	Dog waste – Aug	88.40	SR/DC
Scofell	Ground maintenance (mowing) July	320.81	SR/DC
E James	Salary – Aug		SR/DC
E James	Phonebox supplies – X2	182.16	SR/DC
S Reschwamm	Phonebox supplies – B&Q	50.15	DC/ST
Unity Bank	Service Charge	6.00	
	TOTAL	£13,494.14	

To

be paid before the next meeting:

X-net	Email	60.00
ICO	GDPR/Data protection fee	52.00
Scofell	Grounds maintenance	320.81

Received since the previous meeting:

HMRC VTR	VAT Rebate Apr-Aug	2,485.12
	TOTAL	£2,485.12

b) Bank balances:

Current Account	£ 2,535.64
Deposit Account	£ 11,905.93
TOTAL	£ 14,441.57

Funds breakdown:

General Fund	£ 2,911.48	
Special & Emergencies	£6,000.00	<i>frozen</i>
CIL Fund	£1,205.47	
Open Space Dev.	£3,934.36	
Defib. Fund	£ 390.26	
Playground Equipment	£ 0.00	

8. Phone Box: Supplies have been received for proposed renovation of phone box. LR will make a start on this in due course. The PC would like to express thanks to David Fairchild for his efforts in repairing the broken wood at the base of the phone box.

Action: Clerk to allocate CIL funds to cover cost of supplies.

9. Members Bid Grant: Those present discussed whether an application should be made but it was felt that this year's limited budget prevented any major projects being undertaken.

10. West Berks Local Plan Review 2023-2041: Details of this were circulated prior to the meeting.

11. Jubilee Meadow: Vandalism/damage discussed in item 6.

12. Village Maintenance & Millenium Field: Nothing to report.

Signed:



Date: 13 - 11 - 25

13. **Any other business:** A request has been made to advertise the weekly Pilates session in the Newsletter. It was agreed in the meeting held on 15.05.25 that the PC did not want any advertising in the Newsletter. It was suggested that an announcement could be made on the village Facebook page and noticeboard.

The meeting was concluded at 8.30pm

Date of next meeting **Thursday 13th November**

2026 meeting dates:

15 th January	
12 th March	
16 th April	Annual Parish Meeting
14 th May	Annual General Meeting
9 th July	
10 th September	
12 th November	

Signed:



Date: 13-11-25.